

WALKING THROUGH TOMHOM

Kisha Borja-Kicho'cho'

I had a dream last night.
I was walking through the jungle,
and as I passed each tree,
it collapsed right beside me.
The ground was dug up,
the naked raw earth exposed.

How could this happen—
to our tãno'
to our mañaina¹
to our familia²
to us?

The big strong tronkon nunu³
the taotaomo'na hid in⁴
were no more.

I screamed,
tears numbing my
blood red face.

As I walked
through the naked earth,
my body weakened.

I fell to the ground,
my palms touching
the unfamiliar earth,
my eyes searching
for the old tronkon nunu,
my ears open
to the calling of our mañaina.

I didn't know this earth.
I couldn't see the trees.
But
in the distance,
I could hear:

"Munga ma'ãñao, hagã-hu.
Munga ma'ãñao.
Ti bai in dinguhao."

"It's okay, our daughter.

Borja-Kicho'cho'

It's okay.
We will never leave you."

Tomhom (also known as Tumon) is Guåhån's tourism hub.

1. ancestors
2. family
3. banyan tree
4. ancestral spirits of the Chamorus